

Assemblymember Christine Kehoe Brings You News From Sacramento

May 1, 2002

Health Care Town Hall Meeting

There was a packed house at my town hall meeting on health care last Friday. About 150 people braved the rainy weather to attend. I facilitated challenging questions from the audience on such issues as HMOs, drug prices, insurance coverage and more. To help answer questions were a panel of health industry experts, including representatives from the Department of Health Services, the San Diego County Medical Society, Pfizer Pharmaceutical, AARP, Aging and Independent Services, and area hospitals. After the discussion, guests were invited to meet one-on-one with additional health care representatives who had booths set up in the community center.

After the meeting, it was clearer than ever that California's health care crisis is affecting us all. As a result of similar feedback and concern, California is in the process of creating a Select Committee on the Future of Health Care to evaluate and make suggestions for improving health care in the state.

Disabled Parking Bill Passes Assembly

Assembly Bill 1800, the disability parking rights bill to allow disabled drivers the right to park in street sweeping zones without having to move their cars, was passed by the Assembly today. (Under existing law, disabled drivers have to move their cars during designated street sweeping times or are issued a ticket.) While this bill would benefit a very small portion of the population (fewer than 6% of drivers have placards, and of those, the percentage that would utilize the benefits of the bill are presumably a fraction of that), the benefits would greatly ease parking hassles for disabled drivers.

Tree Planting Grants

An abundance of trees in our neighborhoods improves aesthetics, contributes to energy conservation, reduces noise, improves wildlife habitats and more. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) announces the availability of the 2002/2003 tree planting and care grant designed to increase tree cover canopy within California Communities. CDF is currently accepting applications for the grants, and all cities, counties, local districts and 501C 3 organizations are eligible to apply. For more information on the grant program, call (916) 653-7209 or go to www.ufe.calpoly.edu.

Port District Audit Results Are In

The Bureau of State Audits presents its audit report concerning the San Diego Unified Port District: It Should Change Certain Practices to Better Protect the Public's Interests in Port-Managed Resources (2001-116). This report is now available on the State Auditor's Web site at <http://www.bsa.ca.gov/bsa>

Day of the Teacher

On Wednesday, May 8th, Californians observe the "**Day of the Teacher**," which is patterned after "El Dia De la Maestra," a celebration of teachers in Mexico. The National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) has also designated "**Teacher Appreciation Week**," which is from May 5th through May 11th this year, while "**National Teacher Day**" is always held on the first Tuesday of the first full week of May. This is a time for honoring, celebrating, and recognizing the lasting contributions that teachers make in our lives.

Visit my Mobile Offices in May

Saturday May 11th and 18th, I'm setting up "sidewalk offices" in North Park and Linda Vista (respectively). Please come by for a chat and let me know about issues that are important to you.

- May 11th, 10 a.m. – 12 noon – 7715 Balboa Ave (just east of I-805), in front of Albertson's Supermarket.
- May 18th, 10 a.m. – 12 noon – 4145 30th Ave (and Howard), in front of Vons Market.